

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated February 20, 2007, pending Claims 1-20 were examined and stand rejected. In response, Claims 1, 6, 13 and 17 are amended, Claim 5 is cancelled and no claims are added. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of pending Claims 1-20 in view of at least the following remarks.

I. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

The Examiner rejects Claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,950,875 issued to Slaughter et al. ("Slaughter").

Regarding Claim 1, Claim 1 recites the following claim feature, which is neither expressly nor inherently disclosed by either Slaughter or the references of record:

the communication proxy provided by the service provider to enable the access to Internet service; and
accessing, by the communication proxy, a web server of the service provider to provide the Internet service to a client if the type of the communication proxy matches a communication proxy type specified by the client and a supported protocol of the communication proxy matches an application-level protocol specified by the client. (Emphasis added.)

Slaughter is generally directed to message conductors in a distributed computing environment that provide a service interface that may interact with clients of the service to obtain all information to run a service, and then either display results of running the service or return information regarding the location of results. (See Abstract.) In contrast with Claim 1, Slaughter does not disclose or suggest use of a communication proxy conditioning to access a web server of a service provider based on whether the type of communication proxy matches a communication proxy type specified by the client, much less that a supported protocol of the communication proxy matches an application-level protocol specified by the client, as in Claim 1.

Slaughter does disclose that a client may look up an advertisement that is used to instantiate a gate that allows the client to run a service by sending and receiving XML messages to and from the service (see col. 14, lines 48-51), however, that is something completely different from conditioning accessing of a web server using a communications proxy provided

by a service provider dependent upon whether the communication proxy matches a communication proxy type specified by the client, as in Claim 1.

Furthermore, Claim 1 requires that accessing by the communication proxy provided by the service provider is also conditioned upon whether a supported protocol of the communication proxy matches an application-level protocol specified by the client. At best, Slaughter discloses that the service interface may be a preconstructed user interface provided to the client by the service and may be provided to the client in the service advertisement or built into the client device and thus run on the client, downloaded to the client from a space server, run on the space server or run on the service provider. (*See* col. 8, lines 6-20.)

According to the Examiner, the above-recited features of Claim 1 are disclosed by Slaughter at column 7, lines 17 to column 8, line 21, FIG. 8 and column 14, line 37 to column 15 line 65. (*See* page 4, paragraph 2 of the Office Action mailed 2/20/07.) However, neither the cited references of Slaughter referred to by the Examiner nor any other disclosure of Slaughter teaches or suggests that providing of a service interface, message gates or the message conductor, as disclosed by Slaughter to allow verification of correct sequences of messages for allowing the client to run the service by sending and receiving XML messages to and from the service, are conditioned on a communication proxy that matches a communications proxy type specified by the client, much less that the supported protocol of the communication proxy matches an application-level protocol specified by the client, as in Claim 1.

For each of the above reasons, therefore, Claim 1 and all claims which depend on it are patentable over the cited art. Consequently, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the §102(e) rejection of Claims 1-5.

Each of Applicants' other independent claims includes limitations similar to those in Claim 1 discussed above. Therefore, all of Applicants' other independent claims, and all claims which depend on them, are patentable over the cited art, for similar reasons. Consequently, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the §102(e) rejection of Claims 6-20.

Dependent Claims

In view of the above remarks, a specific discussion of the dependent claims is considered to be unnecessary. Therefore, Applicant's silence regarding any dependent claim is not to be interpreted as agreement with, or acquiescence to, the rejection of such claim or as waiving any argument regarding that claim.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims now pending (1) are in proper form, (2) are neither obvious nor anticipated by the relied upon art of record, and (3) are in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would be useful in moving the application forward to allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at (310) 207-3800.

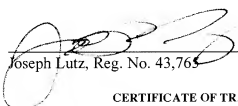
If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17, particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 5/9/07

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being submitted electronically via EFS Web on the date shown below to the United States Patent and Trademark Office.


Suzanne Johnston

5/9/07
Date